

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter expounds about the relevant theories obtained from reviewing literatures. It comprises the theories about translation, idiom, and translation strategy.

#### 2.1 Translation

Translation has been well-defined by some experts in diverse ways influenced by how they perceive language and translation. Bassnett (2014) Perceives that translation involves the activity of rendering source text into the target text in order to ensure that the structure of source text and target text can be as close as possible, and the meaning of both languages will be approximately similar. In line with that statement, Ali and Al-Rushaidi (2016) postulate that translation is defined as the process of rendering aspects and features of the source text into target text semantically, culturally, and pragmatically. In the viewpoint of Munday (2008), the translation term refers to the translated text (the product) or to the act of creating the translation (the process). The process of translating two different languages include the activity of changing the source text into the target text.

By and large, translation is the process of transferring meaning from a source language (SL) to a target language (TL). It is advocated by the statement of Ahsan (2016) who asserts that translation is defined as a process of transferring message, idea, and thought from the source language into the target language by considering the accuracy, acceptability and the style of language both written and spoken.

Alluding to the three linguistic experts' definitions of translation directly above, it can be inferred that translation is not a mere the process of transferring thought, idea, message, or meaning from a source language to a target language but it is about finding the natural equivalent meaning and style on the target language as well. Nevertheless, the meaning of source text (ST) and target text (TT) cannot be perfectly equivalent because they come from different languages and depend on the translator itself.

In terms of extent, levels, and ranks, Catford (1965) divides translation into three groups. Based on the extent, translation is classified into *full* translation and *partial* translation. On the levels, he defines translation into two types; *Total* translation and *restricted* translation and on the ranks of translation there are *rank-bound* and *unbounded* translation.

In full translation, the whole text is submitted to the interpretation cycle, that is, the objective language text material alternates all aspects of the source language text. Meanwhile, in a partial translation, some parts of source language are simply transferred to target language text and the other is left untranslated because they are observed as 'untranslatable' word or for introducing the 'local color' of source language into target language.

Total translation means the source language grammar and lexis are replaced by identical target language grammar and lexis, which implies replacing source language phonology or graphology with non-equivalent target language phonology and graphology. Whereas restricted translation means an equivalent textual material

of target language replace the textual material of source language at only one level, that is the performance of translation only at the phonological or graphological level, or simply at one of the two levels of grammar and lexis.

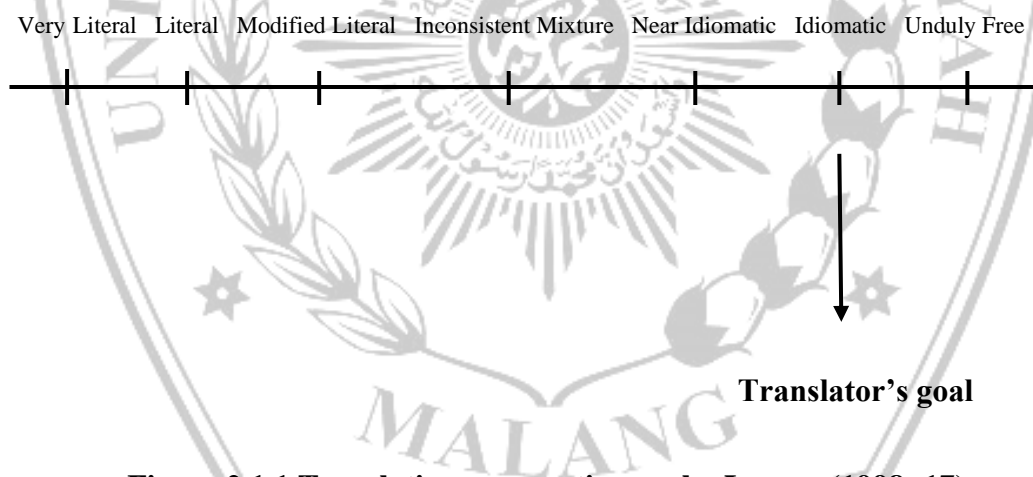
The rank-bound translation is a translation in which the selection of target language equivalents is purposely confined to one rank or a few ranks in the hierarchy of grammatical units, usually setting up word-to-word or morpheme-to-morpheme equivalences, but not equivalences between high-rank units such as group, clause or sentence. In contrast with this, unbounded translation is a normal translation in which equivalences shift freely up and down the rank scale.

Based on the kinds of texts to be translated, translation has two types namely factual and literary translation. Factual translation refers to translating and conveying information with precision, without involving the emotions or feelings of the translator but only based on the real facts such as translating scientific fields, reports, newspapers, etc. on the contrary, literary translation is a kind of translation that involves the translator's emotion or feeling and it tends to be subjective because literary translation refers to the translation of arts. For instance, translation of screenplay, movies, novels, poems, drama, etc.

Translation also can be classified into form-based and meaning-based translation (Larson, 1998). Form-based translation or it is known as literal translation attempts to follow the form of Source Language. Literal translation has fewer communication values and sounds like nonsense. Meanwhile, meaning-based translation tries to make every effort to communicate the meaning of source

language text in the natural forms of the receptor language, such translation is called idiomatic translation. Idiomatic translation makes the product does not sound like a translation, but it sounds like it was originally written in the target language.

A good translator will try to translate idiomatically. However, in fact, it is hard to consistently translate the source language into the receptor language not a mere idiomatically but literally as well. Therefore, translations are often a mixture of idiomatic and literal translation. A translator might express some parts of the translation's product in very natural forms and the other parts fall back in literal form. This circumstance makes a translation becomes a continuum from very literal, to literal, to modified literal, to inconsistent mixture, to near idiomatic, to idiomatic and even more become unduly free as displayed below.



**Figure 2.1.1 Translation as a continuum by Larson (1998: 17)**

In translating a text from source language into receptor language, the goal of translator should be an idiomatic translation which reproduce the target language text with the same message as the source language text but using a natural grammatical and lexical selections of the target language. The product of translation

will be known as a successful translation if the reader does not recognize that target language text as a translation at all, but simply as a text that written in the target language as its own and give information as well as enjoyment.

## **2.2 Idiom**

In vocabulary studies, idiom has been approached from different perspective. There are countless theories or definitions about idiom from linguistic experts. In this study some of those definition will be explained in order to help people comprehend idiom intensely. Baker (1992, 2011) asserts that idioms are “frozen patterns of language which allow or no variation in form and often carry meanings which cannot be deduced from their individual components.” In line with that statement, Adelnia and Dastjerdi (2011) perceive that “idioms are linguistic expressions or lexical items representing objects, concepts or phenomena of material life particular to a given culture”.

In the viewpoint of Balfaqeeh (2009), idiom is ‘frozen chunks’ which the meaning of the whole word dissimilar with the meaning of its individual word involved. Advocating the statement Balfaqeeh, Shojaei (2012) perceives that idiom is defined as a group of words which cannot be comprehended from the superficial meaning of the individual word constituting them. In another word, idiom may be said to be a defined combination of terms which have an arbitrary meaning from each particular word’s meaning.

It can be appointed from all definitions overhead that idiom is the frozen form of linguistic expression which is tied with a culture where the language is spoken

and cannot be translated one by one as it has different meaning of the individual word itself and must be learnt as the whole unit. For instance, “the long and the short of it” which means “when someone want to explain the general condition without giving the detail”. Consequently, idiom has uncertain meaning, and it is quite different from each word’s specific sense.

### **2.3 Translation Strategy**

One of the challenging issues that translator may face is translation idiom, as there is no identical idiom in the target language that correlates precisely to the idiom in the source language. Therefore, a proper strategy in translating idioms is required as the problem-solving tool which can be used by the translator with considering the peculiarities, function, semantic, culture-specificity and structural unpredictability of idiomatic expression.

According to *Collins English Dictionary*, strategy is set of plans intended to achieve and complete a specific goal. There are many theories of experts about strategy and technique to translate a text. In this research, the translator will use the term of strategy related to Baker’s theory about strategies of translating idiomatic expression. When a translator faces a difficulty in producing a successful translation result, translation strategies are implemented.

With the intension of dealing with the difficulty, translators will apply different strategies to translate the idiom from source language into target language since they might understand the words differently. Additionally, Ahsan (2016) notes that there is another aspect that can affect the effect of translation such as the related

sense of idiom accessibility, the importance of the particular lexical object that decide the idiom, and the adequacy of the usage of idiomatic language in the target language in a given register.

Therefore, the translator have to use certain technique in order to interpret an idiom properly. The strategy is adopted from the second edition of Mona Baker's book (2011) entitled "A Coursebook On Translation". In her book, she offers seven strategies for translating idioms, as follows:

a. Using an idiom of similar meaning and form

The source language idiom would also be converted into an idiom in target language in this strategy. Baker (1992, 2011) perceives that it is not a mere roughly has the same meaning as the source-language idiom but involve the lexical item as well. Using this strategy, the similar meaning of source language must be found on the target language or the translator should change the word of source language by finding the same lexical item in the receptor language. in other words, translators need to identify an idiom in the target language that is both descriptive and lexical comparable to the source language . Idiom is something which knotted with culture, so not all the idiom of source language has the same form or meaning with the target language. Therefore, this strategy can only be used for certain idiom. For example:

SL: She interviews her friends **one by one**

TL: Dia mewawancarai teman-temannya **satu per satu**

The translator translated the idiomatic expression one by one into *satu per satu*. The idiomatic expression one by one was used to express an order to come in a

single person. In the target language, the translator used *satu per satu* which has equivalent lexical items as source language. This idiomatic expression is classified in this strategy since the source target idiomatic expression is translated into target text by using idiom as well. In the other expression, all of the above idioms have not only the same form, but also the same meaning.

b. Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form

This strategy focuses on finding idiom in target language (TL) with similar meaning but consist of different lexical item (dissimilar form). In translating idiom, this strategy is often found because in translation the similarity in meaning is the priority and the form are just following. In another word, this strategy uses dissimilar lexical items to express same idea as the source language. For a deep understanding here some example of translating idiom with similar meaning but dissimilar form:

SL: I bought this ring on the **black market**

TL: Saya membeli cincin ini di **pasar gelap**

The English idiom *black market* can literally be translated into “*hitam pasar*” (literally: black = *hitam*, market = *pasar*). These idioms share similar meaning but dissimilar form. The dissimilarity of forms between the two idioms lie in the word “*black*” and” *gelap*” because the word “*black*” in the English has different meaning with the Indonesian word “*gelap*”, while it accurately means “*hitam*”.

c. Translation by paraphrase



An idiom is usually paraphrased when the text of source language expresses the meaning in other words. Baker (1992, 2011) states that, because of the distinct style between the source language and the target language, a translator should use paraphrasing when a match cannot be identified in the target language or when it seems inadequate to use idiom. Even though Paraphrasing is inaccurate strategy and somehow it may impact the loss of cultural significance, but it is still acceptable and the most common strategy that often used by the translator when an equivalent meaning cannot be found in the target language, For instance:

SL: The woman *kicks the bucket*.

TL: Wanita itu *meninggal dunia*.

The idiom “*kicks the bucket*” means “die”, it doesn’t have a similar preference in target language. If the translator translates the idiom literally it becomes *kicks = menendang, the bucket = ember (menendang ember)* and makes nonsense. Therefore, rather than translating the idiom literally, the translator decided to paraphrase the English idiom “*kicks the bucket*” into “*meninggal dunia*” which more acceptable in the target language.

d. Translation by omission (omission of entire idiom)

In the target language, as with single words, an idiom can often be entirely omitted because it is very difficult to translate even for the translator. Baker (1992,2011) postulates that omission strategy can be applied when the idiom of source language has no close match or equivalent in the target language, or the meaning cannot be easily paraphrased. This strategy also can be allowed for the

stylist reason or to make the sentence appropriate to the context in the target language. Here the example of omission strategy:

1. SL: I had some help doing my homework **by the way**

TL: Aku mendapatkan bantuan dalam mengerjakan tugasku

The idiom *by the way* is usually used in the beginning of conversation to start new topic, or to express in delivering news about something new. In this sentence, the translator did not translate the idiom *by the way* into the target text (Indonesian) because the translator wants to make the translation product become simpler or because of stylistic reason. On another word, by omitting the idiom “*by the way*”, the translator just made up the translation work in the target text simpler without losing the meaning of the source text.

e. Translation by omission of a play on idiom

Based on Baker (2011), the omitting of a play on idiom technique means delivering only the idiom’s literal connotation in a context that makes for a specific interpretation of a term which is otherwise fun. An idiom can be applied literally to describe a concept which is in such sense, cannot be translated into target language. accordingly, such idiom can be omitted in the target text by applying this strategy. For example, an advertising leaflet was provided to tourists at the Wedgewood factory and an exhibition of a “Centuries of craftsmanship on a plate” idiomatic expression. it is quick to obtain something that arrives or is shipped on a plate. This idiom plays on the expression’s idiomatic meaning as well as the plate’s actual meaning, which makes it extremely difficult to restate in other languages because

Wedgwood is known as a place for making crockery. Therefore, in this case, the Japanese translation prefers for the idiomatic expression to be sacrificed. The literal meaning of the Japanese version of this idiom is “The craft of famous people has been continually poured for centuries into a single plate” written in kanji.

f. Translation by borrowing the source language idiom

Baker (2011) explained that in some context, borrowing the original form of idiom is the prevalent strategy to be applied and it is also commonly used to deal with culture-specific items. This strategy is typically found in idiom which has no existence in target language, or it should be kept because of specific context reason. For instance, the idiom “out of this world” which was taken from a limited time pamphlet promotion for visitors to the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry (UK) which refers to a space exhibition that is indicated as such all through the museum. It is a play on the idiomatic significance (‘fantastic’, ‘superb’) of ‘out of this world’ and the more precise sense of ‘from another galaxy’, ‘beyond the earth environment’) which referring to what visitor may hope to find in the space exhibition. Alluding to Baker (2011), All rendition (French, Italian, Spanish, German and Japanese) of this available promotion leaflet hold the English idiomatic expression.

g. Translation by compensation

According to Baker (2011), Compensation means that at the point where it appears in the source text, one should either omit or play down a function such as idiomaticity and incorporate it somewhere in the target text. This strategy is not

limited to idiomaticity or fix phrases and might be utilized to compensate for any loss of context, emotional intensity or stylistic impact which might not be immediately reproducible in the target text at a given point.

Based on the explanation directly above, it can be concluded that in certain cases, idiom of source language can be translated into idiom in target language as well, but sometimes it is very difficult to translate idioms into idioms, so that translator might apply non-idiomatic translation in order to maintain the meaning of the translated expression in the target language.

For the purpose of this current research, four strategies are chosen because based on some previous studies, it is found that those strategies commonly used by the translator in translating idiom from source text into target text. In addition, the other three strategies are not used because of some reasons. First, alluding to Pratiwi (2017) there is no idiom found that had been translated using translation by borrowing the source language idiom because there was a cultural distension between two main languages or it was difficult to express the eloquence of the message from source text to target text. Second, Lafta (2015) and Habizar (2016) have reported that translation by omission of a play on idiom which proposed by Baker (2011) is not an applicable strategy, and the last, translation by compensation is clearly not appropriate since it will take up a large amount of space. Furthermore, when the translator and the researcher do not know each other, this strategy cannot be used since the researcher can not identified precisely which idiom has been substituted and where the replacement idiom is put in the sentence.